

Developments

DCVAMC Facility Updates

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Developments is published for patients, employees, volunteers and friends of the Washington

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Improvements to Serve You

Developments is published to keep you up-to-date on the many upgrades and facility improvements underway or planned at the Washington DC VA Medical Center (DCVAMC). We are currently undergoing several construction projects that will ultimately make your experience at the "Flagship of VA Health Care" even better.

When you know what's happening at your Medical Center, you are prepared to get to the facility and to see your provider with the least amount of inconvenience.

We welcome your letters, questions or suggestions. We realize that some projects may cause you some temporary inconvenience, but we'll do our best to minimize that for you. We look forward to hearing from you. Write to us at: *Developments* c/o the Office of Public Affairs at the address indicated on this page.

New Parking Options Being Explored

To expand its service to Veterans, the Medical Center has several construction projects pending. As exciting as these projects are, they will make parking at DCVAMC temporarily difficult.

With the construction of the new Fisher House planned for this April, the Medical Center will lose about 250 parking places.

Shortly thereafter, construction will begin on the new domiciliary, the administration building and the expansion of the current parking garage.

Each project will further impact the number of available parking spaces for employees, patients and visitors.

The Medical Center is currently looking for creative ways to expand its parking alternatives.

Some options being considered for Veterans and visitors include:

- Leasing hydraulic lifts to double remaining parking spaces and

- Turning grassy area into gravel parking lots.

Some parking options being considered for employees include:



This Spring, parking lot #2 will become the construction site for the new Fisher House. Other major construction projects will soon follow. Until the parking garage is expanded, Veterans and employees are urged to explore other means of getting to the Medical Center.

- Leasing off-station parking with shuttle service and

- Creating a carpool database for employees.

In the meantime, Veterans and employees are strongly urged to avoid driving their cars to the Medical Center.

Please consider looking for other ways to get to the Medical Center.

We have contracted with International Limousine Shuttle Service to provide

free transportation to and from Metro's Brookland/CUA Station and Columbia Heights Station throughout the day.

Just look for the shuttles with the DCVAMC logo in the window.

If public transportation is not convenient, perhaps a friend or family member can drop you off, or you could find others interested in carpooling.

Those who visit the hospital infrequently may

consider taking a taxi. Another suggestion for Veterans is to try to schedule all appointments for one day, this will not only help relieve the parking shortage but may even save money on co-payments.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience our growth spurt may cause. We are doing our best to minimize the impact to you. Parking and construction updates will be available on a regular basis.

Facility Improvements: Bigger, Brighter

New Internet Café

Located directly behind the new Starbucks in the Medical Center Atrium, the newly-opened *Internet Café* provides free internet access for up to five customers at a time.

Expanded Polytrauma Area

A new Polytrauma Area is in development. This major expansion project which will help the Medical Center meet the growth in the number of patients with polytrauma (multiple injuries). The new state-of-the-art rehabilitation equipment, a computer lab for cognitive rehabilitation and a real-life rehabilitation application area will significantly help Veterans returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Radiology Area Upgrade

An extensive renovation project has begun on the Radiology Suite. The new area will house state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapy equipment including a 6X Linear Accelerator for diagnosing disease and a Spect Camera for detecting cardiac diseases, tumors and bone lesions. The new Radiographic Fluoroscopy system will provide patients less radiation exposure and quicker examination time.

Expanded Parking Garage

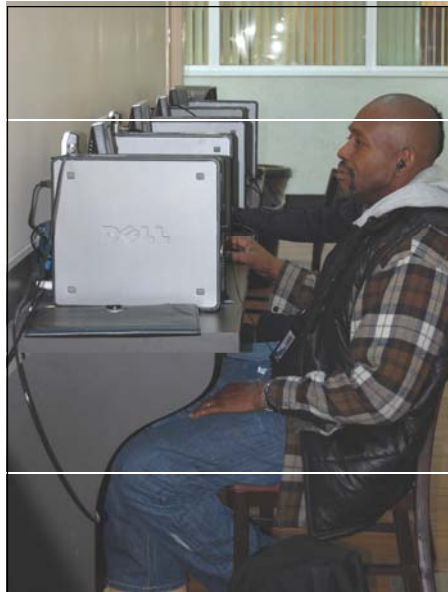
The construction of the Fisher House and the domiciliary will eliminate many of the available parking spaces, requiring the need to add two extra levels to the current parking garage. The garage will have to close when construction begins in late Summer or early Fall 2009.

Renovate Gastroenterology (GI)

In early Summer, the GI Suite will more than double in size with more treatment rooms and pre/post procedure bed areas to serve more Veterans and meet the current demand for GI procedures.

Renovation of 3A and 3C Wings

To improve patient privacy and confidentiality, the 3rd floor will be renovated to increase the number of private patient rooms. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2009.



Veteran Gregory Atkinson tries out a computer in the new Internet Café. *"It's really nice, I'm glad we have this here," Atkinson said.*

Upgrade Elevators

Three elevators have been completely upgraded and the remaining two elevators will be completed by April 2009.

Renovate Supply Distribution (SPD)

In order to more efficiently distribute supplies, SPD will be relocated to the first floor.

Business Office Move

The Medical Center is currently accepting bids for leased office space in Landover, MD. The Customer Service Staff will remain in the Medical Center so patient services will not be disrupted. This initiative will create space for expanding patient care areas and will free up parking spaces currently used by Business Office employees.

Additional Beds for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

Three more ICU beds will be added on the 4B Wing. The project is expected to be completed in Spring 2009.

Halls and Walls

Every hallway in the Medical Center is being renovated in one of the most extensive projects to date. Patients are already commenting on the fresh, bright look.

Administration Building

To allow for expansion of direct patient care areas, a new 40,000 square foot administration building will be built for non-direct patient care services and staff. Construction is planned for Fall of 2009.



DCVAMC will soon have an energy-efficient revolving door to better control the temperature in the Atrium. Installation will begin in the Spring when warmer weather arrives.

er, Better and More Convenient!



The picture (left) is an artist's rendition of the new Fisher House to be located on the DCVAMC grounds. Utility trenching has already begun and construction will be in full-swing this Spring. The Fisher House will provide free lodging to families of hospitalized Veterans undergoing lengthy treatment. The 20-suite facility will feature its own parking area, a community kitchen, dining room, living room, library and laundry room.

Upgrading the Infrastructure

There are so many projects underway to upgrade the Medical Center's infrastructure, it would be impossible to include them all here. Some of the most recent projects include: cable TV upgrades throughout the hospital; a new roof on C-Wing; the overhaul of the nurse call button system; the replacement of hot water heaters and floors and the upgrading of the electrical systems.

Pharmacy IV Prep Room

In order to meet new mandated regulations, the Pharmacy will soon have a new Intravenous (IV) Prep Room. Construction is scheduled to begin in late Spring of 2009.

Renovate Pathology

Renovation is currently in progress to improve the Pathology laboratory. The completion is anticipated to be in late Winter 2009.

Operating Room, Emergency Department and Decontamination (DECON) Expansion

Construction is planned for Fall of 2009 to co-locate DECON with the Emergency Department to provide continuous treatment in the event of a disaster.

Research Building Expansion

This ten-phase project will update the 30 year-old facility. Design is expected to begin in 2010.

Domiciliary Program to Relocate to DCVAMC

To provide health care closer to where Veterans live, construction will soon begin on the new domiciliary on the DCVAMC campus.

The design has been completed for the three-story facility which will be built where parking lot #1 is currently located.

Once completed, the Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment program currently located at the Martinsburg, West Virginia Medical Center will be relocated to DCVAMC.

The domiciliary program will provide coordinated, integrated rehabilitative care in a therapeutic homelike living environment to qualified Veterans.

The building will have its own kitchen, dining room and several group therapy rooms. Each floor will have its own recreation room. The building will also house the Compensated Work Therapy Program offices.



Artist's rendition of DCVAMC's new domiciliary— The facility will provide living quarters for 77 Veterans enrolled in the Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Program.

Sharing Resources: VA and DoD partner to provide more services to Veterans

To provide you the best care possible, DCVAMC is partnering with several Department of Defense (DoD) medical facilities in the area. Part of these sharing agreements include the creation of new community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC) to bring health care closer to where veterans live. CBOCs offer basic medical and preventative care as well as health education to eligible Veterans.

Under the VA-DoD partnership, the construction of a new CBOC is in progress at the Ft. Belvoir Medical Center. The grand opening is expected to be held in FY 2011.

The Medical Center also has two more CBOCs planned which are not part of the sharing agreement. One will be located near Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Maryland and another is being built in Montgomery County, with an expected completion date in 2010.



A medical technician from Walter Reed Army Medical Center volunteers to assist with the DCVAMC flu shot campaign.

Minor Renovation Projects Make Major Impact



The Medical Center has several "going green" projects underway to help save electricity and reduce the hospital's impact on the environment.

You may have noticed lights going from very dim to normal when you enter certain hallways, restrooms and conference rooms. This is because Facilities Management Service (FMS) personnel have been busy installing motion sensors throughout the hospital. The sensors are set to turn the lights off after 15 minutes of inactivity.

In addition to sensors, programmed controls are being placed in several administrative sections of the Medical Center which will turn off non-emergency lighting and non-essential environment controls after business hours and on weekends.

Other energy saving measures include replacing traditional light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFL) throughout the entire Medical Center.

Though CFLs initially cost more than standard bulbs, using them will reduce electricity consumption and will save money over time.

Every little bit helps, especially since the average monthly utility bill for the hospital is \$400,000! The FMS staff asks for your assistance as they fine-tune the sensors and program the environmental controls.

If you enter an area and only emergency lighting remain, the sensors may need adjusting. Please contact the FMS office or a staff member if you experience any problems with lighting or heating.



The latest information about the VA Medical Center is available any time of the day or night!

Veterans and the public can log on to: www.washingtondc.va.gov/

Employees may visit the Medical Center Intranet website.

If you have any questions or concerns about our renovations, please phone 202-745-8000 ext. 8221.

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